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*Eugene R. Montalvo*  
Eugene R. Montalvo  
Date: August 31, 2001

3673  
PATENT  
TH-0776X (US)  
ERM:SWT

#20  
Amend  
2/8  
9/15/01

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of )  
)  
)

DONALD WAYNE ALLEN and )  
DEAN LEROY HENNING )  
)  
)

Serial No. 08/970,312 )  
)  
)

Filed November 14, 1997 )  
)  
)

FAIRED TRUSS SPAR )  
)  
)

Group Art Unit: 3673

Examiner: J. Lee

August 31, 2001

RECEIVED

SEP 10 2001

3600 MAIL ROOM

RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION MAILED JULY 24, 2001

Hon. Assistant Commissioner  
For Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

Attorney for Applicant in the present invention hereby responds to the Office  
Action mailed July 24, 2001. At the time of the Office Action, claims 1, 2 and 4-8  
were pending.

AMENDMENTS

In the Claims

Please amend claim 1 to read as follows. A marked-up version of claim 1  
indicating the amendments to claim 1 is attached hereto as Appendix A.

- C/
1. In a spar structure for offshore hydrocarbon recovery operations, the spar  
structure comprising:  
a vertically oriented elongated floating hull having a buoyant upper section;